

I feel that I am fairly representative of the typical communications user on both the residential and commercial environments. I can tell you that uncontrolled telemarketing costs my company tens of thousands of dollars each year both in material (fax paper and toner), media costs (the lines tied up and the server memory used) and employee time (answering the phone, removing the faxes, reloading the toner and paper, deleting the e-mail). Residentially, I am very fortunate to have a) a state (FL) Do Not Call List and b) a state agency that does try to enforce the state regulation. I can tell you that even what Florida has is not enough. We all still get illegal pre-recorded messages and illegal junk faxes. Historically we are seeing that telemarketers will do ANYTHING above or below the law to continue their enterprise. The time has come for the Federal government to give control of the various media's back to the people that pay for the right to use it. Like my residential phone number. I want the right to choose who is not allowed to call me under any circumstances. Most residential users do NOT want telemarketing of any kind. The Federal government should give us the right to control our own media access. We want a National Do Not call list, we want one with some serious teeth for those that choose to not follow the law (because most telemarketers will NOT follow the law on their own- it's not profitable to follow the law). We don't want any federal law to infringe on state law just as we don't want any state law to pre-empt a legitimate clear concise federal law that allows us to control our own media. In other words, don't let "well the state said it was OK" be a valid defense that the telemarketers can use to get out of obeying the federal law. I am sick and tired of rude, obscene telemarketers cursing me because I don't want them calling me. I am sick and tired of vulgar, offensive, unwanted, unsolicited e-mail spam appearing on my e-mail accounts without my consent. I am sick and tired of advertisers using my paper and toner to try and (unsolicited) sell me something by using MY fax resources. I'm sick and tired of all of them flaunting the ability to hide behind their own resources making them anonymous enough that law enforcement cannot find them easy enough to enforce what little law we do have. Make it against the law to hide caller ID...make it the law that they MUST provide a caller ID. Absolutely NO pre-records. No exceptions either. I don't think charities and newspapers and especially politicians should be able to call me if I don't want them to either. Make the sign up free and with a checkbox....can charities call you yes or no? And then after some telemarketer does violate my request to NOT have them call me, implement an escalating series of fines beginning at \$1000 per occurrence or better. Damages can be recovered in civil court on top of the fine. Next occurrence triples the last fine and judgement. I want a universal number that is accepted worldwide as THIS means do not sell or disperse this person's information in anyway. What I mean is, when I am asked what my phone number is by a store, I can give them example 899-555-0000 and it is the same as if I legally served them with a judgement that they shall not use or market my information (not just phone number) in any way. Anyone giving a potential marketer that number has clearly said (enforceable by LAW) that I do not want you calling me under any circumstances even a prior business transaction. Currently, the telemarketers have all the technology and tools and vagueness of law. We are looking to the FCC to even the playing field and give us the power to control media WE pay for.

PS start with phone companies...how is it OK to sell me service then sell the access information to the service I am paying for to someone else unknown to me and unsolicited to me? That's not OK.